

In re Patent Application of:
BRANCH ET AL
Serial No. 10/015,024
Filed: DECEMBER 11, 2001

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 21 are currently pending. Claims 20 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 20 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of United States Patent No. 6,325,552 (Brillhart) in combination with either United States Patent No. 6,213,806 (Choy), United States Patent No. 6,086,387 (Gallagher et al) or United States Patent No. 5,362,245 (Suguro et al). Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 19 have been allowed.

The claims of the application have been amended to overcome the objections of the Examiner and to better define the invention in light of the prior art. In particular, claims 20 and 21 have been canceled.

As such, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims remaining in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration would be appreciated.

Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1465 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

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Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing correspondence has been forwarded via facsimile number 571-273-8300 to the COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, this 17 day of August 2005.

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